

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, the title and claims 1, 4-6, 10 and 13-17 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 11 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4-10 and 13-20 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The title was objected to as not descriptive. Appropriate correction has been made to the title. Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 102

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirai (US 6,016,419).

Claim 10 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 12. Claim 10 was further amended slightly to improve the form of the claim. Claim 11 has been cancelled. Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al. (US 6,353,721) in view of Hirai (US 6,016,419).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 5 has been amended to alter its dependency to amended claim 1 and is believed to be allowable for the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 3, 4, 6-9 and 12-20 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 6 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form. The allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 12 have been incorporated into their respective base claims. It is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 7-9 and 18-20 are allowable in their present condition.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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